

Observation on Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Case Number: PAX16.324387

Name: Patrick (Paddy) and Nora Monaghan

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Introduction

We respectfully object to the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure Development application (Case Number PAX16.324387).

We were born in 1946 and 1951 and have lived in this area all of our lives. Our parents also lived and raised their families here, giving our family generations of connection to the Erris area, specifically.

Together we raised eight children here. Although some have moved away for employment and family reasons, all continue to return regularly, with family visiting at least monthly. Two of our children continue to live locally, while two others own homes in the area and intend to retire here in the future.

Our home is much more than simply a house; it's always been the heart of our family. It is where generations of our family have gathered, celebrated milestones and maintained our strong connection to this special place. The surrounding landscape, open views and tranquillity are an essential part of our daily lives and wellbeing.

1. Landscape and Visual Impact

The proposal for thirteen turbines approximately 180 metres high would introduce structures taller than the Spire in Dublin into an open coastal landscape. We are concerned they will become a dominant feature in views from our home and permanently alter the character of the area we have known throughout our lives.

2. Residential Amenity

The enjoyment of our home extends beyond the building itself to the surrounding landscape and peaceful rural setting. We are concerned that the scale and visibility of the proposed turbines would significantly reduce our residential amenity and enjoyment of our property.

3. Health and Wellbeing

Both of us have experienced significant health challenges, including heart disease, cancer and depression. Throughout these difficult times, the peace, quiet and natural beauty of the area have been an important part of our recovery and wellbeing. Seeing our children and

grandchildren visit, spending time outdoors and enjoying the surrounding landscape all contribute greatly to our quality of life.

4. Tourism and Local Economy

The Wild Atlantic Way, local beaches, blanket bogs and scenery attract visitors from Ireland and abroad. These visitors support local accommodation providers, cafés, shops and other small businesses. Protecting these natural assets is essential for the long-term sustainability of the local economy.

5. Biodiversity and Peatlands

The surrounding blanket bogs and peatlands are an important part of the biodiversity and environmental character of Erris. We ask that careful consideration be given to potential impacts on habitats, birds, water quality, peat stability and the wider ecosystem.

6. Water, Traffic and Construction

The scale of the development will require extensive excavation and heavy construction traffic. We ask that the effects on local roads, watercourses and nearby residents are fully considered.

7. Heritage and Community

Our family has lived in this area for generations. The landscape is part of our history, our memories and our identity. We hope our children, grandchildren and future generations will be able to enjoy the same unspoilt environment that has shaped our lives.

8. Cumulative Impact and Planning Policy

We ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider the cumulative impact of this proposal alongside existing and permitted wind energy developments. We also request that full regard be had to Mayo County Council's current Renewable Energy Strategy and landscape assessments when determining this application.

Conclusion

We recognise the importance of securing Ireland's future energy needs and appreciate the role that renewable energy has to play. However, we believe equal consideration must be given to protecting the unique landscapes, communities and natural heritage that make places such as Erris so special.

Having spent our entire lives in this area, we have seen first-hand how generations of families have been shaped by its landscape, community spirit and natural beauty. It is our sincere hope that our children, grandchildren and those who come after them will continue to enjoy the same peaceful environment and strong connection to this place that our family has experienced for generations.

We respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to carefully consider the long-term impact this development may have on the character of the area, the wellbeing of residents, local biodiversity, tourism and the wider community before reaching its decision.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request that permission for the proposed Muingmore Wind Farm development, Case Code PAX16.324387, be refused.